

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition containing a hydroxyl group-containing resin (A), a curing agent (B) and a color pigment (C), a resulting coating film having a lightness index or a L value of 80 or more, the curing agent (B) being a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) blocked with a pyrazole blocking agent.
2. (original) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blocking agent (B) is a mixture of the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) with at least one curing agent selected from the group consisting of a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₂) blocked with a blocking agent other than the pyrazole blocking agent, a water-dispersible blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₃) and a melamine resin curing agent (B₄).
3. (currently amended) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, the hydroxyl group-containing resin (A) is at least one hydroxyl group-containing resin selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group-containing acrylic resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polyether resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polycarbonate resin and a hydroxyl group-containing urethane resin.
4. (original) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin is a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin (A₁) containing as essential components at least

one polybasic acid selected from the group consisting of an alicyclic polybasic acid (a₁) and other polybasic acid (a₃), and at least one polyhydric alcohol selected from the group consisting of an alicyclic polyhydric alcohol (a₂) and other polyhydric alcohol (a₄).

5. (original) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin is a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin (A₂) containing as essential components an alicyclic polybasic acid (a₁) and/or an alicyclic polyhydric alcohol (a₂), other polybasic acid (a₃) and other polyhydric alcohol (a₄).

6. (currently amended) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) is a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent blocked with 3,5-dimethylpyrazole blocking agent.

7. (currently amended) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or an alicyclic polyisocyanate.

8. (currently amended) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₂) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or alicyclic polyisocyanate.

9. (currently amended) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an extender pigment (D).
10. (currently amended) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an urethane emulsion (E).
11. (original) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein a content of the urethane emulsion (E) is in the range of 10 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a total solid content of the hydroxyl group-containing resin (A) and the curing agent (B).
12. (currently amended) A multi-layered coating film formed by successively coating a cationic electrodeposition coating composition, coating a water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~, optionally curing, and coating a topcoat coating composition by at least one layer.
13. (new) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 2, the hydroxyl group-containing resin (A) is at least one hydroxyl group-containing resin selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group-containing acrylic resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polyether resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polycarbonate resin and a hydroxyl group-containing urethane resin.
14. (new) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) is a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent blocked with 3,5-dimethylpyrazole blocking agent.

15. (new) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or an alicyclic polyisocyanate.
16. (new) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₂) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or alicyclic polyisocyanate.
17. (new) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an extender pigment (D).
18. (new) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 9, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an urethane emulsion (E).
19. (new) A multi-layered coating film formed by successively coating a cationic electrodeposition coating composition, coating a water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 11, optionally curing, and coating a topcoat coating composition by at least one layer.
20. (new) A multi-layered coating film formed by successively coating a cationic electrodeposition coating composition, coating a water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 2, optionally curing, and coating a topcoat coating composition by at least one layer.